

US Serial No. 09/062,872
Page 2

- (i) contacting an adherent monocyte-derived dendritic cell with a peptide comprising said T-cell epitope; and
- (ii) contacting said dendritic cell and peptide to a naïve T cell; whereby said T cell proliferates in response to said peptide; and
- (b) modifying said protein to neutralize said T-cell epitope such that the modified protein induces less than or substantially equal the baseline proliferation of said naïve T cells.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said epitope is modified by:

- (a) substituting the amino acid sequence of the epitope with an analogous sequence from a human homolog to the protein of interest;
- (b) substituting the amino acid sequence of the epitope with an analogous sequence from a non-human homolog to the protein of interest, which analogous sequence produces a lesser allergenic response from T-cells than that of the protein of interest; or
- (c) substituting the amino acid sequence of the epitope with a sequence which substantially mimics the major tertiary structure attributes of the epitope, but which produces a lesser allergenic response from T cells than that of the protein of interest.

(NEW) 17. the steps of:

- (a) obtaining from a single human blood source a solution of dendritic cells and a solution of naïve CD4+ and/or CD8+ T-cells;
- (b) promoting differentiation in said solution of dendritic cells;

US Serial No. 09/062,872

Page 3

- C2*
Cont.
- (c) combining said solution of differentiated dendritic cells and said naïve CD4+ and/or CD8+ T-cells with the peptide, said peptide comprising said T-cell epitope; and
 - (d) measuring proliferation of said T-cells in said step (c).
-